

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-2, 4, 8-14, 16, 18-23, and 25, cancel claim 24, and add claim 26 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for associating an identifier with ~~a virtual process, the virtual process comprising~~ a plurality of processes, the method comprising:

starting a first process;

associating the first process with ~~a virtual process identifier~~ the identifier;

creating, from the first process, a second process; ~~and~~

associating the second process with the ~~virtual process~~ identifier;

associating a third process with the identifier, wherein the third process is not a descendant of the first process;

creating, from the third process, a fourth process; and

associating the fourth process with the identifier.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~virtual process comprises a virtual private server, the virtual private server comprising~~ a plurality of processes that together provide the functionality of a dedicated server application program.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first process comprises a system initialization process.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein associating the first process with the ~~virtual process~~ identifier comprises storing an entry in a data structure, the entry comprising the ~~virtual process~~ identifier and a process identification number of the first process.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising intercepting a system call, made by the first process, that creates a process.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein intercepting the system call comprises replacing a first pointer, which points to object code of the system call, with a second pointer, which points to different object code, such that making the system call causes the different object code to execute.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising inserting the different object code into the operating system.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein inserting the different object code into the operating system comprises loading a module into a running operating system kernel, the module comprising the different object code.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

loading, by a modified loader program, the first process into computer memory;

starting, by the modified loader program, the first process; and

storing, by the modified loader program, an entry in a data structure in computer

memory, the entry comprising the ~~virtual process~~ identifier and a process identification number of the first process.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

starting, by a virtual process manager program, the first process; and

storing, by the manager program, an entry in a data structure in computer memory, the entry comprising the ~~virtual process~~ identifier and a process identification number of the first process.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a computer program product for associating an identifier with a ~~virtual process~~, ~~the virtual process comprising a plurality of processes~~, the computer program product comprising:

program code for starting a first process;

program code for associating the first process with a ~~virtual process identifier~~ the identifier;

program code for creating, from the first process, a second process; and

program code for associating the second process with the ~~virtual process~~ identifier;

program code for associating a third process with the identifier, wherein the third process is not a descendant of the first process;

program code for creating, from the third process, a fourth process; and

program code for associating the fourth process with the identifier.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the computer program product further comprises program code for storing an entry in a data structure, the entry comprising the ~~virtual process~~ identifier and a process identification number of the first process.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the computer program product further comprises:

program code for intercepting a system call that creates a process; and  
program code for associating the process being created with the ~~virtual process~~  
identifier of a process that made the system call.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the  
computer program product further comprises:

program code comprising instructions to associate the process being created with  
the ~~virtual process~~ identifier of the process that made the system call; and  
program code for replacing a pointer to the system call with a pointer to the  
instructions to associate, such that making the system call causes the  
instructions to associate to execute.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the  
computer program product further comprises program code for storing the instructions to  
associate in the operating system by loading a module into a running operating system kernel, the  
module comprising the instructions to associate.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the  
computer program product further comprises:

program code for starting the first process; and  
program code for storing an entry in a data structure in computer memory, the  
entry comprising the ~~virtual process~~ identifier and a process identification  
number of the first process.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the computer program product further comprises program code for loading the first process into computer memory.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer system for associating an identifier with ~~a virtual process, the virtual process comprising~~ a plurality of processes, the computer system comprising:

an initiation module, for starting a first process and a third process, wherein the third process is not a descendant of the first process;

[[an]] a creation module, coupled to the initiation module, for creating, from the first process, a second process, and for creating, from the third process, a fourth process; and

an association module, coupled to the creation module, for associating the first process with ~~a virtual process identifier~~ the identifier, and for associating the second process with the ~~virtual process identifier~~, and for associating the third process with the identifier, and for associating the fourth process with the identifier.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 further comprising a storage module, coupled to the association module, for storing an entry in a data structure in computer memory, the entry comprising the ~~virtual process identifier~~ and a process identification number of the first process.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 further comprising an interception module, coupled to the association module, for intercepting a system call that creates a process;

and wherein the association module is further for associating the process being created with the ~~virtual process~~ identifier of a process that made the system call.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 further comprising a storage module, coupled to the interception module, for storing object code comprising instructions to associate the process being created with the ~~virtual process~~ identifier of the process that made the system call; and wherein the interception module is further for replacing a pointer to the system call with a pointer to the stored object code, such that making the system call causes the object code to execute.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 further comprising ~~coupled to the storage module~~, an insertion module, coupled to the storage module, for inserting the instructions to associate in the operating system by loading a module into a running operating system kernel.

23. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for associating an identifier with a ~~virtual process~~, the ~~virtual process~~ comprising a plurality of processes, the method comprising:

~~starting the virtual process by~~ executing a system initialization process;

associating the system initialization process with a ~~virtual process identifier~~ the identifier;

associating a second process, created from the system initialization process, with the ~~virtual process~~ identifier;

associating a third process with the identifier, wherein the third process is not a descendant of the system initialization process;

creating, from the third process, a fourth process; and

associating the fourth process with the identifier.

~~and wherein the virtual process is comprised of a system initialization process and a second process created therefrom.~~

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for associating an identifier with ~~a virtual process, the virtual process comprising~~ a plurality of processes, the method comprising:

loading, by a modified loader program, a ~~process that is a part of the virtual process~~ first process into computer memory; and

storing, by the modified loader program, an entry in a data structure in computer memory, the entry comprising the ~~virtual process~~ identifier and a process identification number of the loaded process;

storing, by the modified loader program, an entry in a data structure in computer memory, the entry comprising the identifier and a process identification number of a second process, wherein the second process was created from the first process;

storing, by the modified loader program, an entry in a data structure in computer memory, the entry comprising the identifier and a process identification number of a third process, wherein the third process is not a descendant of the first process;

storing, by the modified loader program, an entry in a data structure in computer memory, the entry comprising the identifier and a process identification

number of a fourth process, wherein the fourth process was created from the third process.

26. (New) A method in a computer system for associating an identifier with a plurality of processes, the method comprising:

associating a first process with the identifier;

associating a second process with the identifier, wherein the second process is not a descendant of the first process;

creating, from the second process, a third process; and

associating the third process with the identifier.